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	IN RE: PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING  TO PREPARE AN EIS FOR TRANSFORMATION OF THE  2ND BRIGADE, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION (LIGHT)  TO AN INTERIM BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM  )	
	PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING	
Taken on behalf of the 25th Infantry Division and U.S.		
	Army Hawaii. Held at Haleiwa Elementary School Cafeteria	
	(Ruth Rankin Hall), 66-505 Haleiwa Road, Haleiwa, Hawaii,	
	96712, commencing at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 25,	
	2002.	
	PREPARED BY: U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, HONOLULU	

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1 Thursday, April 25, 2002, 6:15 p.m. -000-2 3 MS. AMARAL: Come on in and take your seats. For those you that have just arrived, there's 4 5 some material there at the registration table you may 6 want pick up, a copy of the two presentations that are 7 going to be taking place this evening. Also, if you are interested in making comment, then we ask you to fill out 8 9 these index cards that are also at the registration 10 table. What we're doing is we're numbering them and we 11 will take - call you up in the order that you signed up. 12 So two things that you may want to pick up. 13 My name is Annelle Amaral. I am you facilitator along with Karen Aka. And there's a third facilitator 14 15 actually and that is, there she is, Miki -- Miki Lee. 16 The other thing you should notice is this 17 evening's meeting is on the record. So there is a court 18 stenographer available. She's sitting closest, I think, 19 to the speaker and she will take down all the comments 20 verbatim. Before we get started I think what we'd 21 22 like to do is call upon Puakea Nogelmeier to come and do 23 an opening pule (prayer) for us. Puakea. 24 MR. NOGELMEIER: Can we stand for the pule

25

(prayer).

E ho'omalu kakou. E ke Akua kau i ka lani, e huli mai e nana mai ia makou, ka po'e i 'akoakoa i keia ahiahi me ka noi ia 'oe e ho'omalu mai ia makou pakahi e ho'oulu mai i ka mana'o o loko me ke akaka o ka mea 'olelo 'ia me ka 'a'apo o ka mea e ho'olohe ana a i mea e palekana ai makou i ka ho'i 'ana i kauhale a ho'omalu mai i ke ala o makou. (Let us prepare for the prayer. God in heaven, turn and look upon us, the people gathered together this evening, requesting to you to grant your shelter to each of us, to inspire the inner thoughts with clarity of what is expressed, and the grasp of those who will listen, and so that we be safe upon our return to our homes, please grant your protection for our pathways.)

As we gather this evening, give us Your presence and give us guidance so that things can be expressed clearly and heard clearly. And then give us safety on the way back to our homes.

'Amene (amen).

MS. AMARAL: Mahalo (thank you). Also, again, before we begin we'd like to introduce the people that are seated in front of us. I wonder, Ron, if we could start with you.

MR. BORNE: My name is Ron Borne. I'm the transformation manager for U.S. Army Hawaii.

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                   MS. OCKERMAN:
                                  Hello. I'm Jeanne Ockerman.
       I'm the environmental attorney for U.S. Army Garrison,
 2
      Hawaii and the 25th Infantry Division (Light).
 3
                   COL SCHISSER: Good evening. I'm Colonel
 5
       Scott Schisser, the Aviation Brigade Commander for the
       25th Infantry Division (Light), U.S. Army Hawaii.
 6
 7
                   MS. NOEL:
                              Good evening. My name is Gina
      Noel. I'm the environmental coordinator for Army
 8
 9
       transformation in Hawaii.
10
                   MR. REDPATH: Hi. My name's George Redpath.
11
       I'm with Tetra Tech, Honolulu. And we're the contractor
12
       for the EIS.
13
                   MS. AMARAL:
                                Thank you. It is, indeed, an
      honor and pleasure to have with us Colonel Schisser, and
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15
      we would like to invite him to come up to make a few
16
       comments.
17
                   COL SCHISSER: Aloha (greetings) ladies and
18
       gentlemen.
19
                   THE AUDIENCE: Aloha (greetings).
20
                   COL SCHISSER: I'm Colonel Schisser, as I
       said before, Commander of the Aviation Brigade of the
21
       25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Hawai'i.
22
23
              On behalf of Major General James Dubik, the
24
       Commander -- the Commanding General of the 25th Infantry
25
      Division of the U.S. Army Hawaii, I'd like to welcome you
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to this public scoping meeting on the Environmental

Impact Statement for the Army transformation in Hawaii.

I do want to start -- thanks to Puakea for the opening
pule (prayer). I appreciate that very much.

Before we begin, I would like to tell you just a little about myself since I didn't have the opportunity to meet all of you this evening. As I said, my name's Scott Schisser. I've been in the Army for 24 years. My family and I came to this beautiful island about 10 months ago to assume command of the Aviation Brigade stationed at Wheeler Army Air Field. I have a wife that I've managed to keep for 20 years and a 13-year-old daughter who acts like she's 30. And I know many of you understand that.

We are very pleased to be at this island that most of you call home. We are very much enjoying our stay here. We thank you for all the warm hospitality that's been shown to our family since our arrival. So thank you very much.

But tonight we're here for a purpose. That purpose is to provide information on the proposed transformation in Hawaii and receive your comments on what the Army should consider and address in the Environmental Impact Statement, the EIS.

The facilitators will coordinate tonight's

meeting and provide an effective system for gathering your input. Your role is to provide input on the environmental issues and concerns you believe should be addressed and analyzed in the EIS. Your issues and concerns will certainly help us develop a game plan to properly address all of the potential impacts on the proposed actions on the environment.

Now, an Environmental Impact Statement is, in fact, the most comprehensive document that an agency can prepare under the National Environmental Policy Act. The process will be explained in greater detail by Mr. George Redpath as we go on into tonight's presentation. I know everyone is anxious for the evening to get underway so we can explain our purpose and listen to your concerns. So without further ado, Annelle, I'll turn it back to you.

MS. AMARAL: Thank you. Thank you, Colonel.

A few other kind of housekeeping things.

You should have noticed when you came in there are some refreshments in the back of the room. Please take advantage of it. Get up, get something to eat.

We'll try to remember at some point during the evening to call for a break. And if we forget, probably the panel will remind us. They did it last night as well. Visit also the information booths in the back. There are personnel around to answer any questions that

you may have about the information that's posted there.

With respect to the bathroom, there's only one and it's down this hall, right out here right behind this door. So it's a unisex bathroom.

We hope to end the meeting around nine o'clock tonight. And hopefully we will get to all of your comments and in a timely manner. At this point now I will defer to my colleague, Karen Aka.

MS. AKA: I'm just going to spend a few minutes talking about the format for tonight's meeting. What's going to happen first is we're going to hear a presentation from the Army that's going to give us some of the details about the transformation process that's being proposed.

And after that presentation, which will last about 30 minutes, we're going to hear from George Redpath from Tetra Tech, who is going to provide information about the Environmental Impact Statement process. So both of those presentations will be done first.

When we're finished with that we're going to give you an opportunity, again, as Annelle had said, for those people who wish to make comment, we want you to sign up on those index cards. People will be called up according to the number that's on the back of that card. Again, we do have court stenographers in the room who are taking

all of this down onto the public record. So we will be asking you to state your name and to be able to have that on the public record.

Also we're requesting if you are reading from written comments it would be helpful, also, if you could possible give those to us so we could also enter those onto the record.

There are a variety of ways that you can submit your comments. There are forms in the back with information at the bottom of the page that gives you email addresses. There is a mailing address. And there's also fax numbers. All comments will be accepted up until May 30th.

And then, finally, for those of you who are interested in providing comment in Hawaiian, Puakea Nogelmeier, who did the pule (prayer) for us as we opened the meeting, is available to do translation so that, again, all those comments will be captured on the public record.

What I'm going to do, then, is introduce Ron Borne to give us the details on the proposal for the transformation.

MR. BORNE: Mahalo (thank you) Karen.

My name is Ron Borne, the transformation manager for U.S. Army Hawaii. Like Colonel Schisser, I'd like to

welcome you for taking the time to join us here this evening.

I'll be briefing you on why we are looking at a change to the Army in Hawaii by transforming the 2nd Battalion of the 25th Infantry Division and the proposed projects we would like to make that may make an affect on our community.

The proposed action is the transformation of Army forces in Hawaii such as described in the Notice of Intent. This involves the conversion of the 2nd Brigade to an Interim Brigade Combat Team, a more rapidly deployable force. I will describe this in a few more minutes.

The proposed action would result in various changes to military lands in Hawaii. Categories of proposed activities are fielding of a new modified weapons systems, armored vehicles and equipment.

Construction of activities, including erecting buildings and infrastructure.

Land transactions such as acquisition of certain lands adjacent to our current training areas.

Deployment of forces and specific training for deployment.

Training to achieve and maintain readiness and other actions necessary to support a net increase of

approximately 480 soldiers and 400 vehicles assigned to the 2nd Brigade.

The Army recognizes that a potential impact related to these proposals include cultural and historical impacts; impact to natural resources such as plants and animals; impacts on water, air, noise as well as social economic impacts; as well as cumulative impacts.

We are here today to get your input on what impacts need to be analyzed for our EIS. Our EIS will look at alternatives to the proposed action, and our Notice of Intent lists some proposed alternatives, a noaction alternative in which the Army will not transform in Hawaii, and an alternative to transform using the existing infrastructure and facilities as currently configured. We will welcome your inputs to other alternatives for consideration.

Also we wanted to let you know that the Army is currently preparing an EIS for return to live-fire training at Makua. Many of you might have attended the scoping meetings a couple weeks back. The EIS is being prepared according to a settlement agreement reached by the court. There is also a supplemental assessment -- a supplemental environmental assessment for Makua.

All transformation-related projects will be

analyzed in this EIS. The Army may prepare some separate NEPA documents, the National Environmental Policy Act.

However, all transformation projects will be wrapped up into this EIS such as environmental assessments for Drum Road, South Range and Pohakuloa Training Area acquisitions that we'll talk about in a moment.

Why is the Army transforming? Recently the world is a rapidly changing place and all the military services are changing to meet these new challenges and missions around the globe. The Army as a whole is proposing to make these changes that will affect the way it trains, equips, fights and interacts with civil populations in deployed areas. The term "transformation" is chosen to describe how the Army will change to meet these new challenges.

During our Cold War days, we had the luxury of knowing our enemies. They had different uniforms and equipment. We had geographic lines to describe our differences such as the Iron Curtain, and numerically numbered "Parallels" that separated us and our ideologies. Our combat vehicles were designed to be heavy and powerful in order to meet the opposing army similar to ourselves and what we had experienced during the Second World War. Thus, we were always thinking "European" as the next battlefront, and planned

accordingly.

As an Army, we would move against an opposition in mutually-protected formations to find an enemy, figure out the strengths and locations of the oppositions by firing weapons, and then move against them to overcome this opposition with force.

Today the tactics and our missions have changed. We may not be able to identify our enemies as easily as we did before. And foes may change several times during a single operation.

Our allies are now made up of coalitions, with some alliances forming right before or even during military operations. And our allies might even share some of the common traits as our opposition.

Information or intelligence has always been an important part of military operations. But the speed and accuracy has been increased multi-fold by our modern information age and the use of the Internet. Now we can rely on remote sensors, high technology and a wealth of intelligence to see a foe before he sees us and to use our speed and maneuverability to be able to take advantage of his weaknesses and our strengths at the time and place of our choosing.

Not all military operations are declared war or even open fighting conflicts, as peacekeeping operations

have become more the norm than the exception.

We are not the only unit in the Army to begin transformation. There are two brigades at Fort Lewis, Washington, one at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, one at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and one in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

As I have mentioned, in the past, traditionally we have been able to predict potential areas of conflict and planned and prepared for such, and that is no longer the case.

While we can still see areas of risk for conventional battles have existed for years, we're no longer able to predict where the next military necessity may be or to what level the military response is required. Just as the named areas shown are places where we're at now or have been to recently, who may predict which of the other areas of concern will become the next hot spot? And, of course terrorism adds a whole new dimension as many a times it knows no borders.

As our military downsizes its number, the frequency of deployments increases and strains the current Army force. Unfortunately, the possibilities for these conflicts remain real and the Army must remain ready. As you can see, Hawaii is an important location to many of these areas and we are centrally located for

strategic deployments.

There are many operational factors which define our tasks, but variety, speed, precision and force are the most dynamic which face us today and describe the operational requirements of this new organization.

Variety. We do not know what the next response will be or to what level our participation will be required. Our ability to respond must be flexible and coordinated. We no longer can depend on a built-up infrastructure in an area we will deploy to for our operations.

Speed. Fortunately we are members of a country that likes to take a long time to determine if it wants to go to war or participate in a peacekeeping operation. However, we also are a military in a society that, once that determination has been made, the people expect a quick and accurate response.

In the past, our heavy forces that have deployed to world hot spots took a long time to get there due to their weight and logistics requirement such as during the Desert Storm deployment. The M1 Abrams tank is one of the best in the world but it weighs 70 tons. The number of Class 70 or 70-ton bridges in the world is limited and many times non-existent in Third World countries.

Many times just speed and timing can defuse a

situation and deprive the opposition of time to organize.

One of these new units must be able to deploy within 96 hours and sustain itself for an indefinite period of time.

Precision. Accuracy in timing, movement and execution is a key part of convincing an opposition that you mean business. Along with public tolerance of aggressive behavior under certain circumstances, the public is intolerant of innocent casualties or collateral damage.

Once force is necessary, each of these soldiers will be equipped to use laser designators, night vision devices, intelligence information and each with a radio for communications with the command structure.

Force. Force of arms or the ability to do so is still a necessity of the Army. And precision and use of force or the threatened to be use of force is still needed to get our point across.

We are no longer alone in our missions and actions. As I spoke of coalitions earlier, we need to be able to operate in conjunction with other services and other nations during our operations.

Our focus is a future Objective Force. But to begin procuring and fielding this first Objective Force will take nearly 8 to 10 years. As we invest in the

Objective Force we must maintain our current Legacy Force which is an unmatched heavy force of Abrams and Bradley fighting vehicles, a responsive light force such as our airborne, and an agile Special Operations Force.

For now we will recapitalize on selected Legacy units of our Abrams and Bradleys and Apache weapons for the future. To do so, we will need to also invest in an interim capability to do the things we cannot do today. The interim capability will be a select number of brigades employing current available off-the-shelf technology and equipment. The interim force will also allow us to train soldiers, grow our leaders, develop the doctrine and organization of these new formations.

Every dollar that we put into science and technology now enhances the quality of the future Objective Force. Today the science and technology requirements is an Army priority. We are challenging industry to assist us with the design of the future Objective Force. We are asking industry to get out of gun powder and into electromagnetic or electrochemical technology. We are also asking about fuel hybrid engines to get our vehicles away from fossil fuels. We're also asking to see if we can use ceramics or alloys for ballistic protection to lighten the vehicles all to save weight, costs, fuel, logistics and lives.

In the future the entire Army will transform.

The question is if the 25th Infantry Division transforms in Hawaii now as part of the interim force, or later with the remainder of the Army.

To show you an example, on the left side shows some of the characteristics of a current light infantry brigade such as our 2nd Brigade is now. On the right it shows some of the proposed traits of an interim Brigade Combat Team. Overall it would mean an increase in the number of soldiers and vehicles assigned to Schofield Barracks and that would be using the training areas in Hawaii.

The new brigade will look something similar to the Army's current structure and will use the traditional names. There will be three infantry battalions which will have three infantry companies. They will use infantry weapon systems such as rifles, mortars, sniper weapons, anti-tank missiles and a new mobile gun system.

There will be a new reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition squadron which will use reconnaissance troops, mounted sensors, embedded human intelligence, multi-sensors, electronic warfare, ground radar and unmanned aerial vehicles.

They will have an anti-armor company for mounted and dismounted anti-tank missiles. It will have an

artillery battalion of towed artillery howitzers similar to what we have at Schofield today.

A support battalion to provide logistical support.

A combat service support company to provide administrative support.

A military intelligence company to augment the reconnaissance squadron and to surf through the vast volumes of intelligence from other sources.

An engineer company equipped as engineers are equipped at Schofield today to provide field support.

And a signal company to provide the communications needed to keep the digital information flowing between the vehicles, the units and the commanders.

We have a unique environment here in Hawaii and it also provides us for decentralized areas of operations like we would find in many of the modern military operation areas. It also has a wide variety of terrain such as open, tropical, urban and desert.

While the transformation of the Army in Hawaii is a statewide issue, we will address the islands with the present and proposed Army presence starting with the island of Oahu.

As I have said before, the Army recognizes that

there are many potential impacts. One of the concerns is the introduction of increased number of vehicles and the traffic on public roads. Since we too are aware that the amount, type and timing of traffic on an island which depends on a coastal road network is a concern of everyone, we are proposing to expand and improve the ability of the Army to access its current training areas while staying off the public roads.

We propose to establish a new vehicle trail from Schofield to Dillingham, and one from Schofield to Helemano separating the military vehicle traffic destined to these areas with civil traffic.

While these trails may still need to cross public roads, they can do so at safe, controlled locations coordinated with the county and state.

We also propose to improve the current military Drum Road to make it an all-weather, two-lane road, giving us year-round access to the Kahuku Training Area. Coupled with the timing of military movement, this will reduce potential traffic conflicts. This too is a real world training scenario for soldiers since traffic on restricted roadways is many times a concern of local individuals.

Due to the shortage of training acres and the limited available space on Schofield proper, we are

proposing to purchase lands south of Schofield to build a motor pool for a new brigade to park its vehicles and develop an area for a displaced rifle and pistol range from Schofield.

While an exact acreage and location has not been defined, we are considering 1,500 to 2,100 acres. And we are coordinating with neighbor land users, is being made now. Based on the concerns we have heard, we have gone out with engineers to design ranges, and we are proposing to design a range to remove the impacts to the Honouliuli Preserve by re-orienting the range direction for its use.

The motor park will be built with features to protect the environment. And the proposed range complex would use only standard ball ammunitions like the types hunters use, and will not use tracers, to reduce possible wild fires, nor would any explosives be used. We have a proposed area, but specific boundaries have not been defined because we are still negotiating with landowners, and we are still analyzing other alternatives.

It's hard to see. I know it's hard to see in the back of the room. The areas' right in there. Again, we have not defined those areas specifically.

While not all training can be conducted by simulations, some tasks can be taught in a virtual setting where precise tasks under controlled conditions

can be monitored and controlled.

We propose to build three new buildings at Schofield at already developed locations near the existing infrastructure. One will be a building containing an individual, though small unit, virtual trainer not unlike what many police forces use today, which use computerized information to grade marksmanship and small team tasks. This system will use computers and laser technology much like you see for sale at computer game stores, albeit a little more complex.

Another building will house a centralized facility for the control, safety, scheduling and maintenance of the training facilities on Oahu. This will be one central building housing the range control.

The last building is a building which will house a digital university to train soldiers on equipment, tasks and tactics of the new units. It will be a simulations center for unit staff training, battle staff training, and also allow the linking of soldiers and leaders in Hawaii with other training facilities, databases and like units around the world.

Three new range complexes will be needed at Schofield. Gone are the days where a soldier would have to accomplish one task like zero sighting a weapon on one range and then move to another to practice or to score

his or her marksmanship abilities. The Army is building multi-use ranges to reduce costs, maintenance and impacts to the environment in promoting facilities that due multiple tasks over much smaller areas.

As many of these weapon qualification requirements as possible from Schofield, which include fixed firing points and fixed targets, will be moved to a single complex on the current McCarthy Flats area at Schofield.

Old ranges will be replaced with multi-use ranges using the same target area. A battle area complex will be built to allow soldiers to train as groups and choose target areas and choose firing points as they would do in combat situations. It would also allow the soldiers to train with the new vehicles in live fire training tasks with other weapons and units.

As more of the world's populated areas become built up, an urban fighting facility would be needed to train the soldiers with the weapons and live ammunition in a controlled setting with the difficult task of training in fighting in urban areas. These facilities would replicate a few simple buildings much like a police training facility or a "Dodge City" type of training event.

In conjunction with the urban live-fire training

facility at Schofield Barracks, there are many other urban fighting type tactics and tasks and peacekeeping tasks that can be trained without live ammunition. We would like to propose to build a mock city at old disturbed sites in the Kahuku Training Area. This would be a non-live-fire urban fighting training facility that would replicate multiple situations across a wide area simultaneously. Many law enforcement agencies have these types of complex computerized facilities that can simulate anything from a simple law enforcement task to conventional military operations.

There will be no live firing of weapons in this proposal, only blanks. This facility would renovate current unused buildings at all three locations and construct several more at two of the three sites.

Now we will address the Big Island proposals.

Like on Oahu, one of the concerns will be the introduction of an increased number of military vehicles and an interest in traffic on public roads. Again, we are proposing to expand and improve the ability of the Army to access the current training areas at Pohakuloa by staying off the public roads. We are proposing to renovate the vehicle trail from the Kawaihae docks, which remain our primary port for entering the Big Island, and to the training area. This will maintain separation of

military traffic destined for Pohakuloa and civil traffic. The exact route of the trail may not follow the current route as we are looking at many options to decide where the trail will be placed.

Two new range complexes will need to be built at Pohakuloa. These also will be multi-use ranges to reduce costs, maintenance and impact to the environment while promoting facilities that do multiple tasks over a much smaller area.

Another large battle area complex will be built to allow the soldiers to train as a part of larger units being battalion sizes or larger, allowing them to choose target areas and firing points as they would do in combat situations. It would also allow the soldiers to train with new vehicles in live-fire training tasks and with other weapon systems and units. This range will allow for the use of all the weapons systems available to the Interim Brigade Combat Team commander such as artillery, attack helicopters and fixed-wing, close-support aircraft.

Also an anti-armor range will be needed to train the new anti-armor company on mounted and dismounted anti-tank gunnery tasks.

Old ranges will be replaced with new multi-use ranges using the same target area and impact areas and

will not create a new one.

While we have looked to minimize additional land requirements, we are proposing to purchase land west of Pohakuloa for maneuver training where soldiers can operate these new vehicles in training with unit organizations in formations using tactics of mutually supporting their movement in non-live-fire training maneuvers. The vehicles will operate in an organized control formations.

While exact acreage and location has not been defined, we are considering 15,000 to 23,000 acres. And we are coordinating with the neighboring land users. And it's being made now.

We have a proposed area with no specific boundaries as we are negotiating with landowners. We are also trying to analyze other alternative areas. The area we are looking at is up in this area here.

Now we will talk about other changes that are needed to the base infrastructure to support this change. We will need to improve Wheeler Army Airfield to allow for the use of C-130 turboprop aircraft for training deployments by the Interim Brigade Combat Team by strengthening the present runway and the present parking areas.

Bradshaw Army Airfield at Pohakuloa will need

strengthening of the existing runway also and improvements to parking area for cargo aircraft such as the new C-17 so that options exist for deployment to Pohakuloa for realistic training.

In order to meet the requirements of deployment for real world missions and for training, we will need to build a deployment facility at Wheeler to prepare a unit for loading on ships and on aircraft.

To be prepared to load cargo for air loading and parachute rigging, we will need to add a parachute rigging section to the Air Force's Joint Mobility Center at Hickam Air Force Base.

To clean vehicles, prepare equipment for deployment and prevent the spread of weeds, three vehicle wash racks are required, one at Schofield near the motor park, one at Kahuku and one to support Pohakuloa on the Big Island.

Three new ammunition storage facilities will need to be added to the current existing storage area at Pohakuloa.

The current fuel storage and distribution facility at Schofield Barracks will be improved to handle the increased number of vehicles. The barracks and family housing area will be improved to meet the increased number of soldiers and families assigned to the

brigade.

A local area network for computer data will need to be improved at Schofield and to Pohakuloa to handle the increased data load transmission. Fiber optic lines will be replaced or augmented in the current existing places and to the new facilities. We also propose to install communications towers on Army lands to provide the necessary data link between the vehicles, the Internet and the command structure. These towers will resemble small cellular phone towers.

In all, the proposals will increase the size of one Army unit in Hawaii and require 32 projects to support the interim transformation of the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

One point of clarification. The Department of the Army revised its NEPA Army regulation on 29 March. This Army scoping process will comply with the revised regulations.

And that concludes my briefing. Mahalo (thank you) for your time.

MS. AKA: Thank you, Ron.

I'd now like to introduce George Redpath from

Tetra Tech who will provide us information on the

National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, as well as the process for the Environmental Impact Statement.

MR. REDPATH: Aloha (greetings).

THE AUDIENCE: Aloha (greetings).

MR. REDPATH: Thank you this evening for taking time out to come to this public scoping meeting to assist us in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement, or the EIS.

The EIS is a public document whose purpose is to provide decision makers, in this case the Army, with the information they require to make a fully informed decision as spelled out in the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA.

NEPA directs all federal agencies to examine the environmental consequences of any major federal action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment and provides an interdisciplinary framework to evaluate the impacts of federal actions.

Furthermore, NEPA opens the federal decision-making process to the public involvement and scrutiny.

This scoping meeting and the EIS we will be preparing are part of that process.

The EIS will evaluate impacts on Army installations, training ranges and surrounding lands and communities in Hawaii, focusing on the islands of Oahu and Hawaii. The EIS is a comprehensive, full-disclosure document that assesses the cultural, economic, social and

environmental effects, both positive and negative, of a proposed project and all the alternatives under consideration.

The EIS process includes a draft EIS, which is released to the public for comment, and a final EIS, which will address the public comments and selects the preferred alternatives.

The EIS will provide a full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts associated with a proposed action -- in this case the Army transformation of the 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, Light, to an Interim Brigade Combat Team -- and will inform the decision makers and the public of reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize any adverse impacts caused by the project.

A Notice of Intent was published in the U.S.

Government's Federal Register last month on March 4th

stating that the Army intends to prepare an Environmental

Impact Statement to address the Army Transformation in

Hawaii. In that Notice of Intent are discussed two

alternatives. Part of the reason for this scoping

process is to get your input not only on your concerns

for the project but input you may have on alternatives.

Publication of that notice initiated the NEPA requirement for public involvement referred to as the

scoping process. Your attendance here this evening is an integral part of that process.

As you can see by the "You are Here" arrow, this is your first chance to comment on the proposed project. The purpose is to receive input from you on the issues that you would like addressed in the EIS as they relate to the Army's proposed project. Your oral and written comments will be considered in the preparation of the draft EIS. And the deadline for submission of written comments is May 30.

In addition to this public forum, you may also provide written comments on forms available here tonight or on our website. And the URL address is on one of the handouts.

As you can see, here's a schedule of the EIS process and important dates. There's also a handout in the back with those dates on it. The draft EIS is anticipated to be completed and released for public comment in February 2003.

Once the draft EIS is published, there will be a 45-day review period during which you can provide written comments on the draft EIS. Additionally, the Army currently plans to hold public hearings during the review period to receive your input on the draft EIS. The comments received at that stage will be addressed in the

final EIS that is scheduled for completion in August 2003.

Following a 30-day public review period, it is anticipated that the Record of Decision or ROD would be issued in October 2003.

Again, we thank you for taking the time out of your evening to come here tonight and provide us with input on this important scoping process.

Thank you.

MS. AMARAL: Thank you, George.

Before we get to the public comment period, what we would like to do is to provide you an opportunity to get some clarification on the issues that were raised in these two presentations. So we have a facilitator with a microphone available. If you need clarification on anything that either Ron or George has raised, this will be the time to bring it up.

We ask you to also use the microphone because that's the only way the stenographer is going to hear you. Please identify yourself.

MR. LEINAU: Aloha (greetings). My name is Bob. And a couple questions popped up as I heard these presentations. The reference to structures would be more gratifying if you could plug in the square footage. A dog house is a structure. So is the Ala Moana Shopping

Center. So if you could try and round out the square footage of your structures. You talked a lot about your structures so I don't know how you would do that. Maybe you could throw a total at it at this point.

The other thing, while you're thinking about the answer, it seems as though the Army has more of an inclination these days towards buying land that in the past they seem more willing to lease. I'm wondering philosophically why -- and I could be wrong -- it seems like there is a shift in policy to buy land rather than lease. I'm curious to the motivation on that.

MR. BORNE: In reference to the first question, I don't have the exact square footage with me tonight. We can provide them if you'll leave us your name and address for the exact square footage. That's the answer to the first question, although they will be multi-storied buildings.

The second question is that the Army is not allowed to build structures on land that it leases, for obvious reasons, because the landowner may take the lease back. So we can't spend federal dollars to buy or to purchase and build things on lands that we lease.

MS. AMARAL: Are there any other questions? Please identify yourself.

MR. RING: Stewart Ring from the Mokuleia

Community Association. And the question I think is probably for Mr. Borne. You talked about the two improved roads; the one going up to Helemano which connects, I gather, with Drum Road and the road which you will be constructing from Dillingham Field up to Schofield.

For those of us who live on the North Shore and have experienced closures of, for example, Kam Highway and the potential closure of Farrington Highway, in the event of emergencies or civil defense or tsunamis or closures of the other highway, would those roads which the Army is constructing be available for evacuation or for people to get to work?

For example, the people that lived in Sunset

Beach and Pupukea when Kam Highway closed at Waimea Bay,

to go to Haleiwa had to drive all the way around the

island. Could they, in the event of a closure of Kam

Highway, use the Army roads for either transportation or

evacuation?

MR. BORNE: While the roads won't be designed for public transportation, obviously under a state of emergency when requested by the State Civil Defense the roads can be made available for public transportation in those emergencies.

MS. AMARAL: Thank you. Here's another

question here. We're coming to you. Thank you.

MS. TORIGOE: Thank you. My name is Margaret Torigoe.

I've three questions. One is will there be increased flight use on the Dillingham Field? And to what extent and what kind of noise can we expect, if there is?

Two. So far as the noise from the live ammo, right now, of course, we can hear the ammo going off in the valley area. Wondering what kinds of increase we can expect from that.

And three. In this information that you gave us, it talks about transformed organization with the proposed Interim Brigade. I'm wondering "interim," does that mean your numbers could go up from this proposal?

MR. BORNE: On the first two questions, right now we do not expect -- because we're not increasing the number of Army helicopters currently with transformation because it's not part of the infantry brigade -- we do not expect large increases in use of Dillingham by aircraft. But that's part of the study. The acoustic study of those types of uses will be part of it. So we appreciate your comment as well as for the second question that you have about the noise. Again, the acoustics for any types of different weapons or the

increase in number just on the 400 soldiers, 480 soldiers that will be assigned, that will also be a part of the study.

And then, I'm sorry, the third question. On interim force, excuse me. This is the proposal for this action. That's what this EIS will cover. I spoke a little bit about the Objective Force out in the future, 25 years, you know, more, maybe before it's fielded here; at least 8 to 10 years before they could figure out what it may be composed of. At that time a second NEPA document would be required to station the Objective Force here. So for the purpose of this NEPA document the interim force is the action.

MS. AMARAL: Another question in the front.

Just as a reminder, the purpose of the questions is to
get clarification on the presentations. And we will move
into the comment period directly after.

Bob.

MR. LEINAU: I was curious on your gas, your storage for 120,000 gallons capacity, if you were going to go above or below ground. And I was curious on your towers, if there's any way you can mitigate visual impact on your communication towers.

The other thing I was curious about, and it was the same thing Stew mentioned. You mentioned it wasn't

going to be designed on Drum Road. It's not a matter of if but when Kam Highway gets knocked out. Rocks will come down in Waimea and the road will be taken out. Logistically this island's really crippled when we can't get around. I would hope that and request that the improvements to Drum Road will include a two-way access. I mean it's one thing to improve it for one-way traffic. But realistically, when it gets used it will be a two-way traffic scenario.

And I know that's going to cost a lot more money because of all your road cuts back there, your topography gets really hilly. So there's a lot of cuts. And it will be really expensive to make it two lanes but I think that really serves, logistically serves a higher -- a higher purpose or double purpose.

MS. AMARAL: I'm afraid I've lost track of the question.

MS. LEE: The field tank underground.

Mitigate the tower so it's not an eyesore, maybe that's what you're trying to say, and suggest the road be two-way.

MR. BORNE: For the fuel storage facility the current environment -- new structure, it's currently a new environmentally sound structure at Schofield. At 60,000 pounds, it's under contract. It has the capacity

presently to go more. We do not know if 120,000 gallons will be the final goal for that fuel station as the vehicles that are being built for this unit are just now rolling off the production line. But we suspect it will keep at a 120,000 gallons.

MR. LEINAU: Above ground or below ground?

MR. BORNE: Oh, above ground or below
ground? It's above ground, sir. It is above ground.

The cellular phone -- the towers conduct activity with the computers on the vehicles is actually what these towers are. But they resemble cellular phone towers.

And because of the circumference that we would need to cover, they would almost always be interior to the Army's training areas. Otherwise, if we put it at a perimeter it would lose some of the effectiveness for it. Of course we would look for areas that either already towers existed or areas that would be unobtrusive to the public from the outside.

And then the third one that had to do with the two-lane road. Currently the design that we're looking at is a two-lane, public -- two-lane, all-weather -- not public, excuse me -- two-lane, all-weather road from the Kahuku Training Area to Helemano. And, of course if that were to change we would let you know.

MS. AMARAL: Okay. If there aren't any

further questions we would like to move into the public comment period. We remind you that if you wish to make comment this evening here at the podium, to get one of the index cards. They're available at the registration table. And we will call you in the order that we receive these.

You also can make comment in writing. And there are some forms you can use back there. Or you can send in comments by mail or by fax by May 30th. So far we have five people signed up to speak. Normally we use a five-minute time limit because we want to get out by nine o'clock this evening. If that's not necessary right now because there are so few who have signed up, then we won't do it. But as the number increases of people who want to speak, then we have to be a little more discerning about the time limit.

The first speaker is Trae Menard followed by Bob Leinau.

Aloha (greetings).

MR. MENARD: Aloha (greetings). My name is Trae Menard. I'm the natural resources manager for The Nature Conservancy, island of Oahu. The Nature Conservancy is a non-profit private organization that conserves, preserves land.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii has serious

concerns regarding the Army's proposed acquisition of the northern portion of our Honouliuli Preserve for use as a small arms qualification range.

Honouliuli Preserve extends for about 3,700 acres along the southern Waianae Mountains and down the east slope of Makakilo and Kunia. At the northern end it is adjacent to Schofield Barracks.

Because Honouliuli contains more than 70 rare, endangered species and some of the Oahu's last remnants of diverse native ecosystems, the Estate of James Campbell granted the Conservancy a long-term conservation lease of their land. Protection of the rare species and native forests in which they live is our number one concern.

In 2001, Honouliuli Preserve in its entirety was designated habitat for the endangered 'elepaio bird.

Soon the preserve will be proposed for critical habitat for endangered plants. In addition, the area of the preserve identified for acquisition overlaps with the areas in the current implementation plan. There are also Hawaiian cultural sites within the preserve area.

Since 1990 the conservancy has expended about \$2.5 million to conduct resource management and community outreach activities at Honouliuli. For the past three years -- for the past three years this work has been

concentrated in the northern part of the preserve due to the higher chance of species survival and the ease of access. This is the same part of the preserve that is now proposed for acquisition. So this northern portion of the preserve is actually the most valuable part of our preserve because it holds some of the most intact native forest, and has probably the most potential for restoration and management.

Earlier this year we completed a 110-acre fence in the area of the preserve to exclude pigs. And this is funded by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Maintenance and follow-up management is required by the grant for at least 10 years.

In the near future we hope to fence an area near Pu'u Hapapa which is in the northern, very northern corner of the preserve. This will protect one of the remaining populations, one of the best populations of endangered tree snails. The diversity of snails in this area is unmatched anywhere on the island.

So threats to the preserve include weeds, pigs, rats and fire. In order to manage these threats it requires consistent and intensive work in the form of fencing, weed control, predator control. We plant native plants and restore the native ecosystems. So we have to get in the area a lot, probably at least three to four

times a week.

So our concerns are really focused on the impacts that the transformation of the land acquisition will have on access and possibly wild fires as well as the spread of weeds and damage to the restoration sites.

The Nature Conservancy recognizes the United
States Army as an important and valued conservation
partner. In fact we've collaborated closely on many
resource management projects in the past. Right now
we're also working together to find a way to accommodate
the Army's training needs without damaging the important,
natural and cultural resources at Honouliuli.

So for those interested in learning more about our preserve, please see me. We have a booklet over there, a little booklet that tells you a little bit more about our preserve. If you have any questions you're welcome to give us a call.

Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. AMARAL: Thank you. Bob Leinau followed by Thomas Shirai.

MR. LEINAU: My name is Bob. A couple more questions. I'm curious on who's going to do the work, you know whether it's all going to be subcontracted or if the Army Engineers are going to do it? The reason is

that sometimes when the Army undertakes a project, because of the nature of their scheduling, they may be forced into making compromises, maybe they work extra long in the rain because they had to get the job done because they're going to be someplace else next week. But sometimes because of those constraints best management practices are difficult to maintain.

So I'm just saying that I'm not sure who's doing the work especially on roads and things. It's probably less expensive if the Army does it. But you would have a better guarantee if the civilian side does it. Perhaps that's a comment or something you might want to look at.

As changes happen, I'm curious at what point the EIS stands and at what point a supplemental EIS comes out. Because things do change.

And speaking of change, it was only last year that you came out here with a 10-pound document on how to preserve training areas. I think it was March 2001. And I don't know what engineering company worked on that. It was a beautiful document. I don't know what it cost you. But there was all kinds of criteria in there about not training when the birds are breeding, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. Somebody put a lot of time and energy into that. I'm wondering if, with the new Army or the new plan, if that obsoletes that document or if it's

still going to have validity.

With regard to the wonderful documents that are well-thought out by highly trained engineers, and there are certainly a lot of brains sitting at the table right here, but as it goes down through the system, as it trickles down to the person who transfers in here for three years and is out of here, one of the things I'd like for you to consider is some way to maintain some continuity so that when the representations all on the top side tend to manifest on the back side.

I know you've got Mr. Char back here in the engineering side and their civilian staff bird-dogging the stuff, and they're a consistent element. But maybe there's some way to incorporate your level of continuity action in the troops in some way. I don't know exactly how you do that. I understand how you spend every three years. Somehow you lose something in doing that.

The other thing is I hope that as you deal with disagreements, and you'll get them, no doubt, that we don't resort to the argument that generally goes along the lines of, "Why widen the highway? If we can't have this, the Army's leaving Hawaii." I would hope that you defend your positions through logic and community process tonight without having to resort to that other kind of rationale.

Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. AMARAL: Thank you. Thomas Shirai followed by Makani Ortogero. Aloha (greetings).

MR. SHIRAI: Good evening, everyone. I want to thank you, the Army personnel first of all, for the food. I want to thank them for coming out and going around the different places to try to work with the community, and explain what you have in store for us.

I have a couple things I'm concerned with. First of all, I'll introduce myself. My name is Thomas Shirai, Junior. My ancestors are from Waialua. I serve on the Oahu Island Burial Council, appointed by Governor Cayetano.

I'm very interested here in the NAGPRA, 106 and State Chapter 6E concerning burials. I hope that you will address these in your cultural and Environmental Impact Statement. I want to also say congratulations to Dr. Lucking for being elected on another commission of the state. She's just been nominated for the Historical Places, where you register historical sites.

However, I have one concern about that. I hope that you will be very sincere and responsive to us. What I'm going to read you is a response. It is from Kapua Kawelo. It's dated May 1st, 2001 by e-mail. It says,

"Aloha. Thank you for your interest in Dillingham. I
have forwarded your message to our archaeologist, Dr.

Laurie Lucking. She was very interested in your ties to
this area and will be contacting you soon."

It's 2002, April 24<sup>th</sup> -- or 25th, this meeting. In have not gotten a written response, or a phone call, or e-mail, or a fax. I see you tonight. That's what I said. So I'd like to just say please listen to the community. Okay? All the other concerns that you heard is very vital. That's all I've got to say for now.

Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. AMARAL: Thank you, Mr. Shirai. Makani Ortogero followed by Bill Paty. Aloha (greetings)
Makani.

MS. ORTOGERO: Aloha mai kakou (greetings all).

Aloha (greetings) panel. I think you remember me from last night. I testified last night at Kawananakoa School. I'm here again tonight because this is my home town. And you'll probably see me again, as with other people that I noticed in here. Mahalo (thank you) to everybody who spoke before us.

And last night I find it interesting, I came in a little late, but I was informed that the presentation that you gave is a little different from the last two

nights, from Monday night's and from last night. I just want the community to know that the presentation has changed a little bit. And I think it was, they presented some alternatives. Last night there was a big concern about alternatives being presented.

Once again Mr. Borne, I want to point out to the people that he has no, there is no definite amount for the amount of money that is spent.

The land amount for acquisition last night as well, they didn't know the right amount of land being acquired.

Let's see. Oh, the developed lands at Honouliuli Preserve, the lands in that area, I think the situation the area of the artillery being fired, it has been directed in a different area but it's still in that preserve.

I still ask you, again, are we going to be granted access rights to it? I'm not just talking cultural gathering rights but access rights. Last night I pointed out that it's a legacy. And as a legacy this is my home. I want to be able to share it with my children. Are you going to restrict that from me as with everybody else? Especially in this community. I never -- I admitted last night I never walked in the Honouliuli Preserve. I am planning to. But I have grown up in

these hills. I have -- I know what the trails are. And your trails are actually roads. I really want to -- I would really like to address that. But I'll save that for the Kahuku one tomorrow.

Is expansion necessary? Because right now the military has 25 -- on Oahu alone -- has over 25 percent of the land mass. And this is only -- he's only talking of the Army. He's not talking about Kaneohe Marine Base, Pearl Harbor, Bellows. He hasn't included in his presentation all of the land that the military does own and that is not being used currently.

So the lands that he's talked about being developed, it is agricultural land and there is definite concern. We're a community, an island community and self-sustenance is important. If the military can help us out with that as granting these agricultural lands stay that way, by all means work with the community here. It's our concern.

Last night Uncle Bill Aila, he pointed out -- I don't know if you guys, if you had said anything about ceded lands that you owned. That's ridiculous because, once again, ceded lands it's according to your documents, you cannot produce a document showing that you own this land. In presenting that to the public next time, please get it straight and don't say that you own lands.

Let's see. Oh, yeah. It's interesting how the presentation changes to the community. Why is that?

Lack of information not being shared with everybody.

It's kind of, again, restrictions and access.

Ah, let's see. The preserve of the training areas. Can you tell me right now, Dr. Borne, if I wanted to walk up along the trails, would I be granted that or no? It belongs to the military after you guys have decided to take the land and the roads?

MS. AMARAL: The process is that people will be making public comment now rather than questioning the panelists.

MS. ORTOGERO: Okay.

MS. AMARAL: But certainly once this is done, then you will have an opportunity to talk directly to them.

MS. ORTOGERO: Sure. I'm also wondering, like, because there's been a lot of misconceptions especially in the representations of what's being heard here tonight and last night, I see a difference. Will the community be able to have access to other testimony? Because last night I heard some strong testimony and with people who are involved much more deeply. And it changes by the community.

Other than the written EIS -- I forgot -- if

1 there's anybody out there, the Environmental Impact 2 Statement, they don't have -- if they find anything during that statement in the EIS they don't have a plan 3 of action as well of an environmental impact assessment 5 of what to do if they find something with historical sites or plants or animals. That should be also 6 7 presented to the public because it is part of an EIS. 8 Yeah, I think that's going to be it tonight. 9 I'll see you guys later. Mahalo (thank you). 10 11 MS. AMARAL: Mahalo (thank you). 12 (Applause) 13 MS. AMARAL: Bill Paty followed by Diane 14 Anderson. 15 MR. PATY: Aloha (greetings). My name is 16 I guess I'm here tonight kind of wearing Bill Paty. three hats, one representing the Military Affairs Council 17 18 of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. 19 The second is that I serve as the civilian-20 aide-at-large to the Secretary of the Army and as such 21 I've been involved in a lot of Army activities. I've had the opportunity, if you want to put it that way, to be 22 23 very much involved with the concerns that we had with 24 trying to continue training at Makua.

The third hat would be that I've lived out here

25

for well over half a century now. It's been my home.

I've had the opportunity to move and travel, hike and

ride most of the areas that we're talking about relative

to what we want to do with the new IBCTs.

Let me say first for the record that the Military Affairs Council which works with the Chamber, it's a group of people that come together to try to work with the Department of Defense and try to ensure that the community understands what they're trying to do. We get an idea what the various component commanders need in terms of their situation. And we go back each year to Washington, D.C., as we will in June, and review with the secretaries of the services and the chiefs of staff (inaudible).

So we try to support them to the extent we can and still provide strong input or advice for what it's worth of how we think it should be handled. They, of course, are supportive of the need the Army has put forth to try to bring about this major transformation.

General Eric Shinseki, as you know, is the Chief of Staff of the Army, and if he's the driving force behind this, getting this whole idea going -- and he's done an amazing job in a short period of time recognizing the Army has to be leaner, meaner, faster -- and they can't continue to fight the Cold War like we were, and to

do that we have to go to the kind of equipment and transformation that we've heard tonight.

With these stryker vehicles, and larger people, the organization will change, the training methods will change, transport will change; the way they fight will change. All of this kind of thing is absolutely inevitable and has to come about if we are going to maintain the kind of combat-ready forward position forces that this country needs. It's critical, I think, that we need to keep that in mind.

But we told the Army folks, if you will, that we think how this EIS is handled is absolutely critical. If the EIS is not supported, if the EIS is not positioned properly, if the EIS is not something that's taken to the grassroots, if you will, and with people like yourselves and have them understand, have them work hand in hand with what's trying to be done, then the whole thing will not come together. This very major opportunity we have economically, if you will, with jobs to funding, continuing the presence of our Army here in Hawaii possibly, may possibly fall through.

So the Army has a major obligation trying to see that they do the job right. And they recognize this. They admit it. They recognize it. But recognizing it and admitting it is not always the same thing. I mean,

last night they took a pounding from the Earthjustice group for not having their figures together in terms of the amount of land they needed, the ownership picture and that kind of thing.

And I would continue to expand on that, in that when you take a look at what they're trying to do, how critical it is to keep all of you involved in this thing, we're talking about the road from Dillingham to Schofield.

Well, I assumed that you're going to go along the old cane haul road, more or less follow that. Then you get up behind Waialua Ranch and it gets pretty hairy up there. The road at one time was a deep road. And I've driven it and ridden horseback on it many times. You get up to Maile Flats. But getting there is a very interesting trial, a very interesting effort.

So, but people would want to know if you're going to put a road all the way from Dillingham up to Schofield all behind the cane haul fields, are the people that are farming the area going to have access? What kind of opportunity will they have to utilize it for the economic benefit of the community? How will this -- how will all of this work out? The FAA, of course, has to continue to get up to where they have to go up at Mount Ka'ala. And others like ranchers and farmers are going to have to go

back and forth. How is this going to be worked out?

The people that come to you in time and say, "Hey, I know you got a road. I know you need the road. I know you have to go to Dillingham, but I've got to make a living here too." So I think it's important that we sit down with you as the time goes along and talk about this.

The fact that there's cultural, environmental concerns goes without saying. And if we think the road from Dillingham to Schofield is going to be an interesting effort, think what they're going to do when they come from Schofield up to Helemano down Junk Drive and all the way over to the Kahukus.

I know some of you have been up to Palama Uka. You know what the land is like when you go down there. You think it's a problem coming off of Waimea Bay where you may have problem with rock slides. That is tough territory. Very substantial amounts of cut and fill are going to have to be moved. Going to have to work with the Water Commission in terms of what -- how you're going to work out the bridges that need to be built.

Obviously very much concerned with cultural, environmental plant picture that's up there. Everybody's going to want to know what -- how are you going to address this.

I know that the Army has done a great job with their efforts in trying to preserve and protect endangered species. No one has done more, I think, than the Army has done in trying to take care of the habitat for the Hawaiian snail, tree snail. No one has done a better job in trying to provide preservation for the various endangered plants. They fenced out the area to keep the goats out, all kind of new fire control procedures. A really major dedicated effort. And I think they'll address it the same way.

But I think we have to recognize as the Army goes ahead with this and you go along with this thing, the contractor is going to have to work, and the community is going to have to come together to be sure that this thing is done right and it's not something that we say, "Oh, my gosh. How did we let this thing happen?"

And I think that we want to be sure that we work as a partner with them. We think this is an opportunity for all of us to come out ahead. There will be more jobs. There will be more vitality of the community. The Army will have a stronger position here. But I would certainly encourage all of us to work together, give the Army a chance to come back to us and say, "This is where we think we have to go. This is what we think we want to do. What do you people think about this?"

We don't want to be in a position where all of a sudden you come back and say, "Here's a two-lane road to Kahuku and we're ready to go." And we say, "Wait, wait, wait a minute. Where's it going to go? How does our land look after you put the roads through? What kind of a configuration will be involved in this thing?"

So a lot of it depends upon the opportunity that they have to bring together people in the community here. People in the community of Kahuku, people in the community up in Wahiawa, wherever they're involved with this thing they have to bring the thing and make people feel they're a part of it.

And I happen to think that this is a strong opportunity here for a great partnership. But if you don't respond to the people's feelings about this thing, provide the information that they need as they go along, then I think we're going to have a problem.

But I think it's possible. I think it's important that we all come together. And I wish them well. And I'll certainly be out there to the extent that I can working with them.

I thank you.

(Applause)

MS. AMARAL: Thank you. Diane Anderson.

Ms. Anderson is the last person signed up to

speak. So if there's some of you that still want to make comment, we would encourage you to get the index card from the registration desk at the back of the room.

Aloha (greetings).

MS. ANDERSON: Thank you. Aloha (greetings).

Thank you very much for providing this opportunity for our community residents to give our feedback at this stage in the game. I'm a resident of the North Shore and in particular I live in the Kawailoa area which is a huge part -- ahupua'a (land division from mountain to sea) - your area of training is proposed.

My general feeling is that I think it's a really sad situation in the world that we have to expand the military and training areas. Overall that's my feeling. I have been very disturbed at being able to see convoys with their big guns on their tanks open coming down Kam Highway as we try to live in a peaceful area.

I know we don't. It's an illusion. It's a very tough world out there. But at the same time I think that our -- the island of Oahu is so already crowded. And the land that's already there, it just seems a shame that we're going to have to expand if that, indeed, is what's going to happen.

I appreciate the EIS opportunity to get involved.

I do hope -- like Bill Paty has just said, because he

spoke so eloquently, what can I say really after that?

He's really touched on so many things in our community.

But I for one feel it's too bad our federal government can't spend money on preparing and practicing for peace and having peace preserves, nature preserves instead of the military.

But if we can get military off the roads without doing too much destruction in making new roads, I think that's a step in the right direction. I'm very concerned about noise, helicopter areas because then it seems like you're living in a war area. While you're trying to train for it at the same time pretend we're living in a peaceful island, to me that's a real challenge.

But I'm living here because I want a peaceful life. So it's kind of scary to know that surrounding all of us is the incredible military getting ready to be combat ready.

Those are my concerns and fears. And I'll see you through the process then.

Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. AMARAL: We have two more people signed up to speak. What we'd quickly like to do is perhaps take a five-minute break to give the panel a chance to move around a little bit and to give others who are

1 interested in signing up to speak an opportunity to do So let's take a break. 2 so. 3 Thank you. (Recess) 5 MS. AMARAL: We have two people signed up to 6 The first is Henry Curtis followed by Kat Brady. 7 We are ready to reconvene. Those of you that want to continue your conversation will have to take it outside. 8 9 Otherwise we're ready to begin. Henry Curtis. 10 MR. CURTIS: Thank you Annelle. Aloha 11 (greetings). 12 MS. AMARAL: Aloha (greetings). 13 MR. CURTIS: I'm Henry Curtis, executive director of Life of the Land. I hope that the EIS looks 14 15 at a few issues. One of them is the use of agricultural 16 land. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that 17 constitutionally mandates protection of agricultural 18 land. 19 The second is endangered species. You're 20 probably aware that we have a great number here and a great number of threatened species. And they're very 21 vulnerable both to their own destruction but to the 22 23 introduction of alien species. 24 For example, on Maunakea the alien species have

been found up there that thrive only above 20,000 feet,

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which means they were packed from some other mountain, the equipment brought over to Mauna Kea where the alien species were released.

So it is possible to track it in or to bring it in with equipment brought in from other places. And that needs to be carefully safeguarded.

Another major issue is cultural impact statements. There needs to be a full exploration of cultural issues. That includes not only the dead culture but the living culture. The right of access, the right of native Hawaiians to practice their living culture.

There needs to be a full analysis of fire. Since much destruction has occurred in Makua due to fire, there needs to be a real adequate explanation of how fire issues would be handled, where fire issues would occur.

There needs to be access issues explored. And that includes both native Hawaiians, pig hunters and hikers.

And there needs to be a full explanation about where various activities will occur and how ongoing environmental programs will occur. For example, for military restoration advisory boards, we know that where equipment is stored, where vehicles are stored there is often runoff of oil products into the ground. And the Pearl Harbor aquifer and the aquifers underneath the

training areas are where we get our drinking water from.

Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. AMARAL: Thank you. Kat Brady.

MS. BRADY: Aloha (greetings), I'm Kat

Brady. I live down the road.

Thank you for holding this meeting. I appreciate that. I also sit on military restoration advisory boards. So I'm concerned about, that you explore the nobuild alternative, so to speak, what would happen it you didn't do this. What would be the ramifications of that? I'm trying not to repeat what Henry said about the training.

About the training. You know past that bypass road by the beach park, Kamehameha Highway is our only road. So traffic really needs to be deeply explored. What would happen? How often are there going to be convoys? How many trucks would that mean? What kind of tie-ups would that mean for the community? How could you notify the community when they're going to have a convoy so they could arrange their schedules not to be backed up in traffic for hours? So look at all the impacts that could happen around traffic and how that would affect people's daily lives on the North Shore.

And transporting weapons. I'm sorry I missed the

early part of the meeting. I apologize for that. Stuck in conference committee at the Legislature. How are you going to transport the weapons? I assume you're going to use Kahuku with the 8,000 acres that you bought.

And I don't know what other lands you're intending to purchase. But what kinds of weapons are you going to use for the training? How would you transport them? Would they be helicoptered or trucked? What's your safety plan if something should happen?

We kind of want to know what the explodability would be if there was an accident there, you had a truck full of bombs, or what would happen?

And if it's helicopter, what's your safety plan in case there would be a helicopter accident, and how that would impact the community? What kind of safety plan in terms of medical stuff you would have in hand? Would you medevac people out? How would that happen? So I'd like to see that really explored.

In each training exercise how many soldiers will be in each training exercise and how long does that last? And what happens to the land after you're finished training? You know, we're known as the endangered species capital of the world in Hawaii because our environment is so incredible. We have things that grow here that grow nowhere else on earth.

So it's really important that you look at all sorts of records. We'd like to see what land you're using, who owns that land, how you intend to get that land and what the condition of that land is when you get it, and what it will look like after you train.

Henry brought up the issue of fire. That, of course, is a huge issue here. We've gone through periods of extensive rain, then extensive drought. We would like to know how you would handle those kinds of weather conditions. What kinds of conditions do you feel it's safe to set fires in? How do you deal with the fact that we have really minor roads here?

For helicopters, of course, the noise mitigation, and the impact on endangered species. When you're flying low and there's nests in the trees, how do you deal with that?

I know I read briefly some of the things on the Army's transformation. And I was trying to understand the range issue. What does that mean that you're going to realign ranges? Could you write it in English so that regular folks could understand? What does that actually mean? That you're going to make it bigger? You're going to get more or what? So we really want to know what all that kind of stuff is.

Then also it if does require getting more land or

shrinking lands that you have for ranges now, maybe getting more somewhere else and then giving this part back or whatever, what happens to that land that was used as a range? How do you clean that up?

The one thing that the community always wants to know when it comes to cleanup is, "Can we grow vegetables on there, on that land after you clean it up and eat them?" And I think that's something you need to look at.

What's the procedure for preparing the areas of ranges? What do you have to do to make them ready for you to use to train them? Can you detail what it takes for that to happen?

Archaeological surveys, really important. And not just surface archaeological surveys. Because in Hawaii there's lots of sites. And we'd like to have a deeper look at the archaeological situation of the land.

And I missed the first part. I don't know how many days we have to respond. We have now till what time, till what date to send in comments? 'Cause I want to write these down for you so you won't have to be breaking your arm. What's the closing date?

MS. AMARAL: May 30th.

MS. BRADY: May 30th. Thank you. Okay.

And how is the community protected in case there is a

fire? What would happen? So we need maps of the area.

We want lots of maps in there, maps of the area and surrounding community of those areas, and how you would notify people in the communities that are surrounding the areas you're going to train, and what your process is for community notification?

I know that a lot of times you put in those little tiny, small thing legal notices in the paper that are very hard for anybody over 40 to read. So how would you really let the community know what you're doing and when you are doing that?

And protecting the groundwater, of course, is really important in an island state. So how do you protect it from contamination?

And on the weapons that you're using, there will be depleted uranium bullets and things like that. How do you mitigate that? How do you clean up after? How long does that take? Are you going to clean up after every training exercise? We want to know the whole scoops.

Have you done this in any other place, transformed, realigned ranges? Or what you're proposing to do here have you done that in other places? I'd like to know where you've done that and communities that you've spoken to, what your community process was for notifying those people that this is what's happening and this is what you're doing, and maybe include some --

definitely include some contact numbers of communities from around the country who may have gone through this before so we can contact them, make sure we're akamai (smart) to everything we need to be.

I think really good detailed maps are something that's really crucial in the EIS that really show what the area is like.

And if, if some contamination from training things that you used got into the groundwater, how would you mitigate that? And for how long is the Army responsible? Say you're doing something now. It takes about 40 years for our water to percolate into the Halawa lens. What about in 50 years? People say, "Oh, my God, we have this pilau (rotted, spoiled) stuff," And you guys use that. Are you responsible for that? What's the process then if contamination is found way down the line? Who's liable for that? What does the community do?

I read something today about CERCLA law where -I don't know if this would fall under CERCLA, but saying
that the Pentagon is trying to limit the military
responsibility under CERCLA because -- what I understand
about CERCLA now you have responsibility forever and ever
for anything that could happen on the lands that you
used. What does that mean with the Pentagon's new
environmental policy that seems to be limiting this

CERCLA responsibility? If you could describe that, that would be great.

Are you going to be using any nuclear weapons?

And please describe the kinds of weapons that you're using in regular kind of language so that we understand what they are.

On the ranges is that something, are those exercises where the troops stay overnight? If they are, where do they stay? What happens to waste at the area, both garbage and human waste? What happens to that? How do you deal with that?

Is there any chance that you could have a range that someone in their community and, boing, all of a sudden somebody has something landed in their backyard? How do you deal with that, when you train in an area around where people live? How do you make sure that you're not shooting into their yards?

On areas where there has been flooding, what's your mitigation plan for that? And what measures do you take to make sure that flooding won't happen?

Life of the Land requests to be a consulted party, and get a copy of the problematic EIS and make comments. If you could put it on CD it would be more better. No trees have to die for that.

On the Cultural Impact Statement, to help you

along, the Office of Environmental Quality Control has guidelines for writing a Cultural Impact Statement. One of the things in there is that you need to talk to practitioners in those areas where you're going to be training. Because it's not just -- sometimes to the Western eye cultural sites are not obvious. But to native Hawaiians they are. And they're sacred. So I think you need to talk to practitioners in the areas around where you're training. And OEQC has listed that. They're at 586-4185.

I'm also concerned -- I don't know if you're going to be using chemical weapons or what kinds of weapons -- but what are the risks over time? If you could do some risk analysis in the EIS that would talk about if somebody, if somebody ate a fish that something landed in the water and contaminated the fish and ate a fish, what are the problems with chemical contamination? And how do you deal with that?

And also the effect of your training and chemicals whatever you may be using to train? What's that effect on our groundwater and streams, drinking water?

I think on the groundwater issue, you probably have heard it many other places that groundwater is really, really important on an island. And we'd like to

1 know where you're training, what the movement of the 2 groundwater is. If you could include maps of how the water moves, then the community would have a better idea 3 4 where, if something got contaminated, where they would, 5 where they should look. 6 And lead contamination is another big issue you 7 should look at. 8 I'm sorry, Annelle. 9 And bird-helicopter interactions. What happens 10 if a bird runs into the helicopter or the helicopter runs into the bird or whatever? And how do you deal with 11 12 that? 13 Okay. I'll send it in writing. 14 Thank you. 15 (Applause) 16 MS. AMARAL: Thank you. There is another 17 speaker. Jeanine Pasoquen. 18 MS. PASOQUEN: Aloha (greetings) everybody. 19 like to introduce myself. I'm Jeanine Pasoquen. I'm a 20 resident of Waialua. Previously Wahiawa, Waianae and the Big Island. I have been a resident of Hawaii since --21 22 for about 42 years now. 23 I'm very concerned about our projections at this 24 meeting. And I wasn't -- I'm disappointed in our

community to see the lack of interest. And hopefully at

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the next meeting you will have more community members here to voice their opinion about the issues talked about in the presentation of your transformation.

Basically, I feel that -- personally that the United States Government, military -- both Air Force and Army -- need to network together, and utilize the land that they already occupy in Hawaii. I know for a fact from driving on military institutions that there's a lot of land not being utilized at the moment. I know that when you talk about that this will help community financial gain, that most of the construction will be taken care of by the military and that there won't be private contractors involved in this transformation of new roads into unexplored territory or explored territory.

I feel that if you look at Barbers Point, it was just abandoned recently. I watched the homes there that were left standing, bulldozed with air conditioned units in them, when all of these materials could have been offered to the state in cooperation, networking with the community to provide a solution for homeless on the island. It was not taken. Those homes went down. They were condemned? I don't think so. A lot of those homes were just built.

All of the land at Pearl Harbor was turned over

to the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation to be run by the city, managed by the city. Why can't the Army utilize the government property that's down there?

Also at Kaneohe. I know at Schofield there is great big empty abandoned lots that were previously used in the '70s and '60s when I lived there. I've seen them just last year that were overgrown with weeds.

And you're talking about expanding a new wash place for the vehicles at the motor vehicle regis -- motor vehicle pool, whatever it is. You might use some of the land that's already there that needs to be cleaned up and share, network. I don't think there's any necessity to occupy any more land in Hawaii that the military has already taken.

Another issue to be taken into consideration is the health issues. Right now there's institutions in Maili and Nanakuli. There there's the highest rates in asthma in children, leukemia, other problems, respiratory problems. You think over there there's a lot of military. The armory that is stationed there, there's a lot of type of weapons stored there. We don't know what type of seepage that's already occurring there, which brings me to another episode.

When you talk about the EPA statements, dah, dah,

dah, the research that you're going to do, I'd like to know, maybe some other people in the community would like to know what agencies exactly are going to be doing these reports for you. And then who will be the counter-agency that will also do another report for the community? Will it be a state-appointed agency? Will it be a private agency provided by the city?

There should be double, if not triple research and studies provided for this activity that you suggest at this time.

I'm also very disappointed to see that our representatives from the city and the state are not here at this meeting. I maybe missed some type of representative for them that's here. If so, please raise your hand, identify who you're representing. I don't see any City Council member. I don't see any representative who was invited by you folks. I hope that is brought to their attention. I'm disappointed at that. Election time we will think about that, and we'll talk about it with our fellow citizens.

I will see you again at the other meetings for this community, possibility of other communities. I really do think that expansion is not necessary for your property here in Hawaii. And that you need to think about utilizing what you have already, and not take from

1 what's rightfully the community citizens' community -thank you very much -- and our heritage in nature. 2 3 (Applause) MS. AMARAL: Mahalo (thank you). 5 Pasoquen was the last person signed up to speak. So at this point I would like to call upon Colonel Schisser to 6 7 make some closing remarks. Colonel. First of all, I would like to COL SCHISSER: 8 9 personally thank each and every one of you who came here 10 tonight. All of your comments, written and oral, will be 11 taken into consideration when the Army prepares the 12 Environmental Impact Statement. 13 Remember this is just the beginning. You saw the timeline up there that said in terms of this is just the 14 15 starting point, all those elements that will occur down 16 the road.

Now, I would like to address one point that was raised earlier this evening, for clarification. We have, in fact, added additional information to tonight's presentation by Mr. Borne based on previous nights' meetings. The slides you viewed, the handouts in the rear, the Notice of Intent all remain the same.

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But based on the prior comments from the previous meetings we have, in fact, added information of the alternatives from the published Notice of Intent,

1 proposed amounts of acreage for land purchases, potential 2 effects and other NEPA documents. We hear you and we want to provide you with the information you need to help 3 us do the best job we can in conducting this 5 Environmental Impact Statement. Now for those of you who were not able to give 6 7 any testimony, the Army will be conducting additional scoping meetings. I believe the next one is Monday night 8 9 at Kahuku High School and Middle School, I believe. And 10 then there is one on the 30th as well. I'm not exactly sure of the location. 11 12 MS. AMARAL: Nanakuli. 13 COL SCHISSER: Nanakuli. 14 In addition, we will take written comments up 15 until the 30th of May. We appreciate your attendance 16 tonight. 17 Thank you for attending. Mahalo (thank you). 18 (Applause) 19 MS. AMARAL: Before we go, we ask you to We will do a closing pule (prayer). 20 We invite you to stay and talk to the people 21 22 and look at the displays. 23 With your indulgence and in deference to our

wonderful native speaker, if you will allow me I'll do

the pule (prayer), something that I was taught when I was

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       very young. He pule kakou (let us all pray).
 2
               Ho'o nani i ka Makua mau,
 3
               Ke keiki me ka 'Uhane no,
               Ke Akua Mau, ho'omaika'i pu,
 4
               Ko keia ao, ko kela ao.
 5
               (Praise to the Eternal Father,
 6
 7
               The Son and the Holy Spirit,
               The Eternal God, praise all,
 8
 9
               Those of this realm, and those of that realm.)
               Mahalo (thank you). Go in peace. Thank you for
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11
       coming.
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          (The public scoping meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.)
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